

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 10 and 30 have been amended to clarify that the optical transmittance of a portion with the identification information is up to 100% that of the portion without the identification information. Further, claims 13-15, 17-19, and 25-29 have been amended to depend on claim 10 instead of claim 11, claim 35 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and new claims 48-51 have been added. Support for the amendments is found in the original application, in particular on page 16, lines 6-7 and 19-21.

Claims 10-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 10 and 30 are the only independent claims.

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner and her Supervisor for the Personal Interview which was held on February 18, 2004.

In the Office Action, claim 35 is objected to because of a typographical error ("hte" instead of "the").

Claim 35 has been amended to correct the error. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 10-11, 13-20, 25-30, 32-39, and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 5,750,267 to Takase et al. (Takase) in view of US 5,047,272 to Hassel et al. (Hassel), claims 12 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Takase and Hassel, further in view of US 5,856,048 to Tahara et al. (Tahara), claims 22-24 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Takase and Hassel, further in view of US 4,812,034 to Mochizuki et al. (Mochizuki), and claims 21 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as obvious over Takase and Hassel, further in view of US 6,361,838 to Miyatake et al. (Miyatake).

It is alleged in the Office Action that Tanake discloses a transparent display heater having a transparent protective layer which is the ink portion, an electrode being a non-ink portion of the display, while Hassel discloses a transparent release layer made of similar material as the transparent protective layer of Tanake.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Tanake discloses building a heater by final assembly of various layers. In particular, the protective layer 6 of Tanake, which may be formed by a resist ink, is provided before forming the electrodes 5 by electroplating. Therefore, these layers are not releasable from the display of Tanake. Further, Tanake aims at improving the connection between the electrodes and the underlying heating electrode. Therefore, Tanake is completely silent as to an easy release protective film as recited in the present claims, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to use a release layer for the optical or electrical layers disclosed in Tanake because of the risk that the electrical connections would be impaired.

In addition, in the present invention, the optical transmittance of the portion with the identification information is from 90% to 100% that of the portion without the identification information. This is not the case in Tanake since the electroplated electrodes 5 are clearly completely opaque.

In view of the above, the presently claimed invention is not obvious over any combination of Tanake and Hassel alone or in view of the other cited references. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Serial Number: 10/056,973

Group Art Unit: 1774

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373

Atty. Docket No.: 020611
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 822-1100
Fax: (202) 822-1111
Customer No.: 38834
NES:rep